

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A maleimide cluster comprising a core carbohydrate molecule wherein the core is selected from the group consisting of monosaccharides, oligosaccharides, and cyclic oligosaccharides and wherein at least two or more ~~maleimides~~ maleimide containing groups are attached to the core, wherein the maleimide containing groups are linked to the carbohydrate core by an alkyl cysteamine linker and optionally comprising a protein is covalently attached to the maleimide.

2. (Currently amended) The maleimide cluster according to claim 1, wherein the core carbohydrate molecule is a monosaccharide ~~and wherein two or more maleimides are each attached to the core.~~

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The maleimide cluster according to claim 2 wherein four or more maleimide containing groups ~~are two or more maleimides are each~~ attached to the core by a ~~the~~ linker.

5-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The maleimide cluster according to claim 1, wherein the core comprises cyclodextrin and wherein one or more maleimide containing groups ~~maleimides~~ are each attached to the cyclodextrin ~~by a linker.~~

16-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The maleimide cluster of claim 2 further comprising a protein covalently attached to each of the maleimide containing groups ~~maleimides~~, wherein proteins attached to the maleimide containing groups ~~maleimides~~ have the same or different amino acid sequences.

20-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Withdrawn) A method of delivering a peptide drug comprising administering a multivalent peptide containing a therapeutically effective amount of the peptide drug to a patient in need thereof,

wherein the multivalent peptide comprises peptides covalently attached to the maleimide cluster of claim 2.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein the covalently attached peptides comprise the same or different amino acid sequences.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Withdrawn) A method of making a multivalent protein comprising contacting proteins containing a thiol group with the maleimide cluster according to claim 2 and forming a covalent bond thereto.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein the covalently bonded proteins the same or different amino acid sequences.

30-36 (Cancelled)

37. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The maleimide cluster according to claim 2 comprising a protein covalently attached to each maleimide containing groups ~~maleimide~~, wherein the protein is an HIV antigen.